

Please amend the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE as follows:

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A rigid animal tether assembly comprises a rigid outwardly extending tie section and a rigid, hollow inwardly extending tilt section. The tie section includes tie elements for tethering an animal at a distal end section thereof and being connected at an opposing coupling end section thereof to an open outer end of the tilt section. A base structure includes base surface configuration that contiguously mates with an open inner end of the rigid tilt section. The coupling end section of the rigid tie section includes ~~means for connecting~~ a biasing member to for connecting the coupling end section inside the tilt section for drawing the rigid tie section and rigid, hollow tilt section under tension in a direction towards the base surface configuration. The biasing member is effective to continuously urge the base surface configuration against the open inner end of the tilt section with an amount of force sufficient to project the rigid tie section coupled to the outer end of the tilt section in a direction outwardly from the base surface.